

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 20, 2020
12:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1861 HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1861 HD1, relating to coffee berry borer. This bill extends the pesticide subsidy program by four years to June 30, 2025; extends the pesticide subsidy program manager position, including the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption, until the year after the program sunsets, specifically, June 30, 2026; and appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the program and program manager position for fiscal year 2020-2021; and requires the Department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature on the results of the subsidy program and whether the program should be allowed to expire or be extended, and if extended, with or without modification, not later than twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*) is a significant coffee pest in Hawaii and the world. The extension of the subsidy program and program manager position, and the additional funds will allow the Department to continue to support coffee farmers by



partially offsetting the costs of purchasing certain pesticides that contain *Beauveria bassiana* as an active ingredient, in order to control the coffee berry borer and mitigate the damage it causes to the coffee beans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 18, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1861, HD1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1861, HD1.

As you know, coffee is a major industry for Hawai'i Island, and I am informed that the coffee berry borer continues to be a substantial threat to coffee's economic survival. Any assistance the State can offer, including the pesticide subsidy that helps farmers manage the cost of controlling this terrible pest, is much appreciated.

I hope you will extend the pesticide subsidy program, extend the program manager position, and make appropriations for the program and position, all as set forth in HB 1861, HD1.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1861 HD1 – RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1861 HD1 relating to the coffee berry borer (CBB).

According to the 2018 State Agriculture overview published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i produced 5.4 million pounds (green weight) of coffee grown on 7,100 harvested acres, with an average yield of 1.92 tons/acre, at a unit price of \$19.40/lb., for a value of \$50.16 million. These data show the high value of this crop to Hawai'i agriculture since that value is based on using just 0.65% of farm acres operated.

The CBB is found in most coffee growing countries of the world and was discovered in Kona, Hawai'i in 2010. It has the potential to be a devastating disease for this industry. It is established on Hawai'i Island, and can be found now on O'ahu and Maui. At the moment it is the most important pest for coffee, with the hopes that early detection and rapid response by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will continue to keep the other major disease of coffee out of Hawai'i.

The CBB is endemic to Central Africa. It belongs to a subfamily of beetles that houses some of the most important pests world-wide. Female beetles bore into the berry and lay eggs inside the seed and the brood then feasts on the coffee seed. Because this happens inside the berry and seed, it can be difficult to control.

An integrated pest management program (IPM) developed Best Management Practices to control the CBB. Collaborative research has shown that sanitation along with biocontrol can be effective. Cooperative Extension Agents estimate that about 80% of coffee farmers are familiar with the IPM program. Cooperative Extension Agents with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, further estimate that the IPM program has directly saved approximately \$11

million in farm gate value, and directly saved another \$11 million in efforts to control the spread of the CBB. Realizing the direct and indirect effects highlights the value that this IPM program has for the coffee industry and the state of Hawai'i.

The IPM program uses an insecticide (pesticide), known as a mycoinsecticide, to control the borer. A fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, is a biological control material and is bought commercially. HDOA was empowered in the past to develop and manage a CBB pesticide subsidy plan, allowing as much as \$600/acre for the grower. The basic approach of this bill is to maintain parts of that program into the future, until 2025.

The IPM program has been shown to be not only effective in control, but maybe more important, effective in controlling the spread of the beetle to other parts of Hawai'i. There is concern that without a full functioning subsidy program, efforts to apply IPM would be reduced; thereby reducing the on-farm and regional effectiveness of the strategy. A survey of coffee growers indicated that nearly 38% of growers would reduce the rate of the pesticide if the program was detrimentally affected. It is reasonable to assume that this would negatively affect the control and spread of the CBB.

Given the estimated \$22 million/year effectiveness of the IPM program that includes a biological insecticide, we support HB 1861 HD1 and thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in its behalf.



February 18, 2020

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Support of HB 1861, H.D.1 Relating to Coffee Berry Borer (Extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer; extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026; appropriates funds.)

Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 12:00 p.m., in Conference Room 308

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1861, H.D.1.**

HB 1861, H.D.1. This bill proposes to extend the pesticide subsidy program to June 30, 2025; extend the program manager position, including the position's civil service and collective bargaining laws exemption, until the year after the program sunsets (i.e., June 30, 2026); and make appropriations for the program and program manager position for fiscal year 2020-2021.

LURF's Position. The Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program continues to support Hawaii coffee farmers by enabling them to purchase and use insecticide products which effectively aid in controlling the coffee berry borer beetle. The highly destructive pest has infested crops on Hawaii island and has recently been detected on Oahu and Maui as well. Extension of the program manager position is necessary to process the applications for subsidies for costs incurred by farmers pursuant to the Program.

Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people, and already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease. Many more harmful pests, including the coffee berry borer, now threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Supporting and helping local farmers including coffee growers, is essential not only to protect the livelihood of these farmers, but also to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii, and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 1861, H.D.1 will assist local coffee growers by further extending the sunset date of the Pesticide Subsidy Program and the manager position needed to help administer the Program as originally intended by Acts 105 (2014) and 152 (2015), which were specifically established to aid with the prevention and control of the coffee berry borer and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 1861, H.D.1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



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February 20, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1861, HD1
RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Room 308
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1861, HD1, which extends the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025, for the purchase of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* to combat the coffee berry borer and extends the program manager position to June 30, 2026.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's signature crops; one that helps bring fame and tourists to Hawaii. Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) threatens the entire Hawaiian coffee industry. While the full tally is yet to be made, farms on Hawaii Island have experienced deep losses. Some have failed. Moreover, large quantities of coffee have been downgraded due to insect damage, reducing the value of the remaining crop. CBB is a serious threat to Hawaii's agriculture industry and the state's economy. While CBB is battled worldwide, no other coffee growing origin shares Hawaii's high labor costs and restrictions on pesticides that may be used elsewhere to fight this destructive pest. This places the industry at a competitive disadvantage when compared to the rest of the coffee-growing world.

Fighting CBB is a priority in other coffee-producing countries. The USDA has expressed its support targeted toward research, education, and mitigation. The industry's response has been immediate and multi-faceted. A non-profit CBB task force has been formed, including growers, processors, HDOA, UH, USDA and county government. CTAHR and HDOA have been responsive and effective in their combined efforts. The industry has

committed countless private sector dollars and has leveraged both State and Federal funds. The State must continue to do its part.

A recent CTAHR economic analysis estimates FY2013 crop losses due to CBB at \$7.68 million, with a resultant \$571,000 annual loss in state tax revenues. The extension of the CBB Pesticide Subsidy Program should be viewed as a modest investment one of the state's largest and most important agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 12:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair;
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Finance,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1861 RELATING TO
THE COFFEE BERRY BORER**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of HB1861.

With the growing coffee industry in Maui County, coffee growers must be able to protect their crops against invasive species, like the Coffee Berry Borer. This pest has already been found on Maui and the program extension is needed to continue to address this issue.

Therefore, the Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB1861 to extend the sunset date of the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:23:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas RaysonMD	Board Member Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators:

My name is Tom my name is Tom Rayson. I am a board member on the Kona coffee farmers Association and a local Kona coffee farmer in Captain Cook with a small estate farm. There's very small profit margin's on my 1 acre estate Kona farmers and as such the CBB subsidy bill as important as it adds up to approximately 38% of my costs. As you know the Cherry Bore Beetle is a menace and is decimating all the kind of coffee fields here on the big island. Spraying with fungal agents such as botanaguard, are critical in keeping the beetle at bay; so that we can harvest a reasonable yield each year. The fungal spray cost over \$200 a gallon and several gallons Are needed per acre. I strongly urge you to continue the subsidy program to reimburse 50% of our cost. This is my number one expense. Please support this bill. The livelihood of us Local Kona coffee farmers is at stake and we hope you can support our efforts to continue to supply quality Kona coffee to the islands in the world!
Mahalo!

Thomas Rayson MD

82-5999 Coffee Pl

Captain Cook HI 96704

cell 920 527-8817

Kona Coffee Farmer. Kona Rays

Board Member KCFA

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:48:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colehour Bondera	Kona Coffee Farmers Association	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

With all due respect, this is to request that you seriously and promptly review and approve the passage of this important piece of legislation.

As the newly membership elected Presidnet of the Board of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, my voice herein is as a spokesperson for more coffee farmers than any other piece of testimony you will receive on this topic.

While we, as a group, have worked extensively on how to best help our farmer members to deal with the pest (CBB) issue that is as hand, there have not yet come forth significant other solutions vis a vis the application of the fungus that more storningly affect the CBB population than other control means.

Yet, since many of our members have small farms and/or limited budgets, the finacial assistance provided through HB1861 is important. Hereby, for another period of time efforts can continue to find other control means, those farms and their neighbors who are affected directly when they do not apply the fungus products, can relax and allow the help of the subsidy mean that coffee is better protected and Hawaii maintains a signature crop, such as pure Kona coffee, to better be perceived by the public and by tourists.

Again, lets' ensure that Hawaii maintains a healthy agricultural base as it so long already has.

Please contact me if any more information or show of support would make sense, and with any questions.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera, President

Kona Coffee Farmers Association

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:36:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Una Greenaway	Hawaii Organic Farming Association	Support	No

Comments:

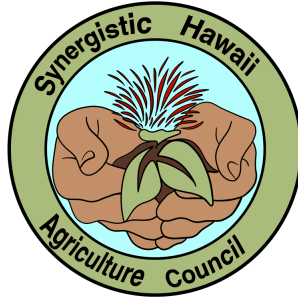
Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen;

As a longtime Kona coffee farmer, I humbly ask that you please pass this bill , which continues the CBB subsidy program. We farmers have been hit by so many pests, we need these funds to help us to fight the CBB. The chemicals are quite expensive, and we appreciate the help from our state government.

Mahalo

Una Greenaway

Hawaii Organic Farming Association



RE: SUPPORT for HB1861

RELATING TO COFFEE BERRY BORER

Coffee Berry Borer; Subsidy Program; Appropriation (\$)

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council stands in support of this Bill. Our three founding associations - the Hawaii Papaya Industry Association, the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association, and the Hawaii Coffee Association - represent 560 businesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State of Hawaii.

The coffee berry borer (CBB) is a devastating invasive pest that continues to spread around the state. Economically, many smaller farms struggle to keep up with the cost burdens that CBB has introduced. Close to 1,000 farms have been impacted by the beetle. This subsidy increases the participation of growers in pest management and has made control much more effective regionally. By lowering the cost of the product, more growers are likely to treat the pest, and the overall quality of the crop increases.

For every \$50 in subsidy costs spent per acre, approximately \$600 in improved crop value is returned to the farmer. This has the potential to increase income by up to \$2.4 million across our Kona, Ka'u and Maui coffee communities. The University of Hawaii estimates that each agricultural dollar circulates 11 times through the community, via local wages, goods and services. Supporting ag is good for the economy.

This program should be funded at a minimum of \$200,000 per year to continue the current rate of subsidy, including the provision for program staffing.

Thank you for considering support to this bill. Your attention makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of farmers.

Mahalo nui loa!

Suzanne Shiner
Administrator

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:52:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Fulton	Mauna Mama Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

The Kona coffee framers are relying on the assistance of the public via state funding to help battle this horrible pest. It's an expensive problem to fight.

It would be wise for our state leaders to direct more funds to studying how to tighten controls to stop invasive species from getting into Hawaii to begin with.

Aloha

Dee Fulton

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:50:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce corker	Rancho Aloha Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

As an Hawaii coffee farmer, **I strongly support HB1861** to continue the Beauveria bassiana subsidy program to combat Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) in Hawaii. CBB threatens the future economic viability of coffee production in our state. The subsidy program needs to be extended as the state and coffee growers develop systems to address CBB.

Please support Hawaii farmers and enact HB1861.

Bruce Corker, Rancho Aloha, Holualoa, Hawaii County

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:13:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
misha sperka	old Hawaiian Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Thank you for this bill which will help us farmers. I am a 100% pure Kona farmer and work very hard to create a good coffee. It is criminal that the BLENDERS brought in the CBB and this is putting a lot of extra cost on the farmers such as myself. The cost in time and money for the spray to kill the CBB is very expensive and a lot of extra work for all of us. None of the blenders who brought in the CBB are paying for their damage to the Pure Kona Coffee that we grow. We need the subsidy to afford this expensive treatment for the CBB. Please pass this subsidy to help us get rid of the CBB. Mahalo. Misha Sperka

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:09:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Obra	Rusty's Hawaiian	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Representatives,

My name is Joan Obra, and I am writing in support of HB 1861 on behalf of Rusty's Hawaiian, my family's farm, mill and roastery in the Ka'u District of Hawai'i Island. There are several reasons why Hawaii's coffee farmers need the subsidy for commercial formulations of *Beauveria bassiana*:

1. *Beauveria bassiana* is a naturally occurring fungus that kills Coffee Berry Borer (CBB). It's available in both conventional and certified-organic formulations, which makes it suitable for farmers throughout the Hawaiian islands.
2. Indeed, *Beauveria bassiana* is so important that UH-CTAHR's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system for coffee features it as a key tool in controlling CBB.
3. *Beauveria bassiana* is costly. One local retailer sells it for about \$200 per gallon. Previously, a USDA TASC grant helped Hawaii coffee farmers offset its high cost. Now that this grant has ended, the State's subsidy is the only one available to farmers.
4. Without the State's subsidy, we believe farmers will reduce their use of this critical tool, which could result in significant increases of the CBB population -- and corresponding damage to the State's coffee crop.

For all of these reasons, we at Rusty's Hawaiian support the continued State subsidy for *Beauveria bassiana*. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joan Obra

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:11:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Wikum	Pohaku Farm	Support	No

Comments:

As CBB moves through Maui, coffee farmers appreciate your support for this bill. Small growers face many economic challenges. The subsidy helps defray those costs.

Thank you
Jacqueline Wikum
Pohaku Farm

Dear Committee ,

I own Kona Coffee Farms and we Support HB 1861. We have been fighting the CBB for over 7years and with the help of the Coffee Borer Beetle Subsidy we have been able to stay in business, having about 105 acres of coffee in can be very difficult to maintain. We humbly ask for your support.

Thanks
Bill Dwyer
Kona Mountain Coffee

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:36:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Maryanoff	KCFA	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

HB 1861 EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

We, and every coffee farmer in Hawaii, can provide compelling evidence of the importance of extending and providing continued funding for the pesticide subsidy program to assist farmers in battling the damage threatening the future of coffee growing in Hawaii.

Please pass HB 1861 so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025.

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **to please pass HB1861 out of committee**. Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm; Cynthiana Farm] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, **and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest**. Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. The volcanic VOG was harmful for coffee as well so yields have been affected badly. **For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it's been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. We thank you for the support thus far.**

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui.

The most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for *Beauveria bassiana* is assisting farmers to develop effective integrated pest management (IPM) to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. **The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2025, is a reasonable step toward continuing to save the coffee growing industry in Hawaii**, the sole center of commercial production in the USA.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and ask that you please pass HB 1861 out of committee so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025. We, as small farm owners/operators, request your continued support to mitigate this agricultural problem.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

19 Feb 2020

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:26:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlene Gee	business	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Kona coffee farmer and a Kona Coffee Farmers Association member. Our farm is small, under five acres.

Due to circumstances, our farm land had not been receiving the care it required for several years. At that time, we had CBB rates as high as 63%. Since we've been again devoting care & attention, including spraying for CBB, we've brought that number down to 11-14%, and other actions we're taking will continue to lower that number.

The subsidy helps and was part of the economic equation for choosing to spray. Also, no farm is an island. We all need to control for CBB. With the subsidy, it will encourage all farmers to take care of CBB.

Please extend this subsidy.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:22:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Scarr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Finance Committee,

I strongly support this bill to support the purchase of essential beauveria bassiana spray to combat Coffee Berry Borer (CBB).

I have farmed coffee in North Kona since 2000. Until 2010 we did not have CBB. After CBB was discovered, the cost of growing coffee has skyrocketed. During the fruiting season, roughly from March to November, I have to spray my 5 acres of trees every 3 to 4 weeks to keep the CBB infestation low enough to prevent massive damage to the coffee beans.

Each round of spraying my 5 acres of trees costs \$100 in spray plus \$150 in labor. This adds up to a massive expenditure added onto the cost of growing coffee in Kona.

We farmers appreciate the State's subsidy of one-half the cost of spray. Of course, we beg for the subsidy to continue. Without this help, fewer farmers will be able to spray, and they will spray less often, which will increase the CBB infestation in the whole region.

I hope we can count on this help from the State. Mahalo!

Sandra Scarr, Holualoa

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:13:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge strong support in favor of HB1861-HD1. Giving us farmers the subsidy to combat the dreaded Coffee Berry Borer is such a wonderful reason to be living in Hawaii. **Mahalo plenty!**

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:43:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Bedingfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is submitted in support of HB 1861 to renew HDOA support for treatment of the coffee borer beetle. As I small coffee farmer in Kona, this program has been very helpful to us for three years now in procuring Botanigard Beauvaria bassiana to treat our orchard. We have worked hard to control the beetle by removing old cherry on the trees and minimizing cherry dropped on the ground. Even with these efforts and regular spraying of the Botanigard, we continue to see beetle damage from 5-15%. We feel good about using Botanigard as a fungal agent that is present naturally in the soil here in Kona. We sell direct to the public and the quality and safety of our coffee are the biggest factors in people purchasing our world famous Kona coffee. We request your continued support for this modest funding program.

Scott Bedingfield, Poseur Estate Coffee

808-896-9001

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 6:26:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of HB1861. The CBB Subsidy helps us small coffee farmers tremendously. Without it we would spend all our money on Botanigard for our 10 acres. That money is what we really depend on so we can use some money on other things. We have 2 small children who play sports and swim lessons. And we all know how expensive raising little humans can be.

Mahalo for you time,

Janelle Gomes

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:42:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luis F Aristizabal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature

Agricultures Legislatures,

Since my first vist to Hawaii in 2012 for address the CBB management, I have seen coffee growers facing a lot difficulties controlling this insect pest. Yes, the USDA/ ARS/ PBARC in Hilo, the University of Hawaii (Extension Service), the SHAC, the Kohala Center, The KCFA, The KCGC, the UFKC, The HDOA and many other institutions have supported coffee growers in Hawaii regarding the CBB issue. A lot of progress and improvements in the Integrated Pest Management program for CBB has been reached by all institutions and by coffee farmers as well. However, today, coffee growers are still facing difficulties controlling the CBB due that this small pest is really challenging to control. The CBB Subsidy program is a positive help for coffee farmers not just for targeting the CBB directly, but also for the economic benefit provided.

I strongly support the continuity of the CBB Subsidy program.

Luis F. Aristizabal

Aloha Paisas Coffee LLC

P. O. Box 5579

Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

808-498-3657

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:37:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franny Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:58:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deniz Tek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1861 to provide much needed support to Hawaii's coffee industry, and allow small growers like me to stay in business.

Thank you,

Deniz Tek

Kona

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:15:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naneki Astronomo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

CBB is still a large issue with Kona coffee. We are doing our best to manage it but we need more assistance to control this beetle. Our CBB percentages are still high.

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:19:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Wessels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PLEASE extend the sunset date for the Coffee Berry Borer Pesticide Subsidy Program until June 30, 2025. As a small farmer in Captain Cook, HI, it is vitally important to me to be able to continue regular spraying of Botaniguard to combat CBB. The subsidy program allows me to spray 6 to 8 times per year. Without the subsidy I would only spray 3 or 4 times per year. This would certainly result in more damage to my crop and a proliferation of CBB.

Mark Wessels Domain Kona coffee

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:38:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Maryanoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

HB 1861 EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF CBB SUBSIDY

We, and every coffee farmer in Hawaii, can provide compelling evidence of the importance of extending and providing continued funding for the pesticide subsidy program to assist farmers in battling the damage threatening the future of coffee growing in Hawaii.

Please pass HB 1861 so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025.

On behalf of the more than 300 members of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association, we are submitting this written testimony **to please pass HB1861 out of committee**. Our two Kona coffee farms [Honalo Farm; Cynthiana Farm] have annual infestations of coffee borer beetles. As fledgling farmers, we were shocked to realize how vulnerable our coffee crop was to beetle damage, **and how much work it was for each farm to battle this harmful pest**. Indeed, it is a lot of work for every coffee farmer to battle the beetle. Thus, we really appreciate your continued support of the current HDOA-administered subsidy program for Botanigard and Mycotrol, which are rather expensive pest-control materials. Without this governmental support, we (and other coffee farmers) could not maintain the economic viability of the coffee business. Having enough quality coffee at the end of the growing season is exceedingly important. The volcanic VOG was harmful for coffee as well so yields have been affected badly. **For us, the investment to get started was huge and then to have to battle the beetle; it's been work, work, work, spend, spend, spend. We thank you for the support thus far.**

The threat of Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) creates a risk that Hawaii-grown coffee will join sugar and pineapple as lost Hawaii-heritage agriculture crops. CBB is now present on three of our islands—Hawaii, Oahu and Maui.

The most effective way to reduce the damage caused by CBB is the application of the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. The current HDOA-administered subsidy program for *Beauveria bassiana* is assisting farmers to develop effective integrated pest management (IPM) to mitigate CBB damage and to protect the economic viability of Hawaii-grown coffee. **The extension of the current HDOA subsidy through June 30, 2025, is a reasonable step toward continuing to save the coffee growing industry in Hawaii**, the sole center of commercial production in the USA.

Hawaii's coffee farmers ask for your support and ask that you please pass HB 1861 out of committee so that the subsidy can be extended until June 30, 2025. We, as small farm owners/operators, request your continued support to mitigate this agricultural problem.

Mahalo in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Cynthia Maryanoff

cmaryanoff@comcast.net

Co-CEOs, Absolute Palate LLC

19 Feb 2020

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 5:31:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1861, continuation of the pesticide subsidy program.

As a coffee farmer, I can speak to the great success of this program. The amount of CBB damage in our orchard has decreased significantly. At one point about five years ago, we were discouraged enough by the amount of damage that we were considering abandoning our coffee efforts. Then we began using Botanigard and have had a decrease in insect damage each year.

The program has been well-administered with opportunity for research accompanying what is an obvious financial benefit to coffee farmers. In addition, it has helped to protect our orchard and neighboring orchards from CBB from fertile coffee on nearby properties.

I urge your support for HB1861.

LATE

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:01:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
linda kelly murphy	KCFA	Support	No

Comments:

As a coffee farmer in Captain Cook since 2001 I have seen the devastation of coffee berry borer and am fighting the good fight by spraying a non toxic fungus .This product is cost prohibitive to any profit each year & I have greatly appreciated the supplement & support by cost sharing.

i am encouraged to keep up the extra work involved to fight the pest by the financial support for product purchase from our state and believe we farmers are on the cutting edge of controlling of this pest. Left unchecked it will destroy the coffee industry as it has in other countries.

LATE

HB-1861-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 8:37:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The State needs to support agriculture as much as possible. Support for CBB control is continuously needed to keep Hawaii coffee viable.